

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are pending. Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that Claims 2-19 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the October 3, 2006 personal interview. The substance of the discussions held are incorporated into the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S.P. 6,609,092 to Ghitza et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the personal interview, Claim 1 is directed to a method of evaluating sound quality on an image forming apparatus. Ghitza et al. is directed to generating a mapping function between subjective measures of audio signal quality. Ghitza et al. does not disclose, suggest or relate its use to an image forming apparatus.

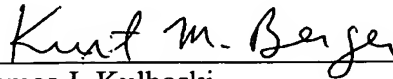
Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Action's assertion that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use multiple regression analysis to evaluate sound quality of an image forming apparatus. Neither Ghitza et al. nor previously cited Chantzis, at the time of Applicants' invention, disclosed using a multiple regression analysis when evaluating sound quality of an image forming apparatus.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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